(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any programme to exploit the gold reserves; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Poor incidence of placer gold has been reported from Subansiri river in Arunachal Pradesh. A study by the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat and Directorate of Geology & Mining (Assam) has indicated occurence of 0.37 g/t of gold in Subansiri river, Assam at some places.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dereservation of Minerals and Ores

2203. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that recently as many as 13 Minerals/ores which were hitherto reserved exclusively for the public sector have been dereserved by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the dereservation was done with the aim to attract private sector and foreign investment for sole exploring and exploiting the dereserved minerals and ores; and

(d) if so, how far the aim has been achieved with details of the foreign investments offered in this field so far after the dereservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy has dereserved 13 minerals which were reserved for public sector exploitation. These minerals are iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The effect of these pol changes will be fully noticeable af consequential amendments to t Mines and Minerals (Regulati and Development) Act, 1957 ha been made.

Identifiction of Gold Zones by G logical Survey of India in And Pradesh

2204. SHRI MENTAY PADMA BHAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India identi gold bearing zones in Andhra Prad

(b) if so, what are the det thereof;

(c) whether Government had c ducted preliminray survey; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of s vey/exploration carried out by C logical Survey of India (GSI), a tal resource of 0.163 million ton of gold ore with an average grade 1.25 g/t to 11.39 g/t of gold in Ka palle, Bhadrampalle and Ramapu areas of Anantapur district, 4 million tonnes of gold ore with average grade of 4.0 g/t in chig gunta, Mallappakonda areas of C tor district, Andhra Pradesh, h been established.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Pr minary surveys in Avulathiapcarap block in Southern extension Kolar Schist Belt indicated an a malous auriferous zone of 500 strike length. Significant aurifer zones in chabala-vidapamakallu Ramagiri-Panakacharla schist b Anantapur district Virappallipeta near Erra doddi in Cuddapah dis have been identified based on the gional geo-chemical surveys. Sc drilling carried out in Dona block